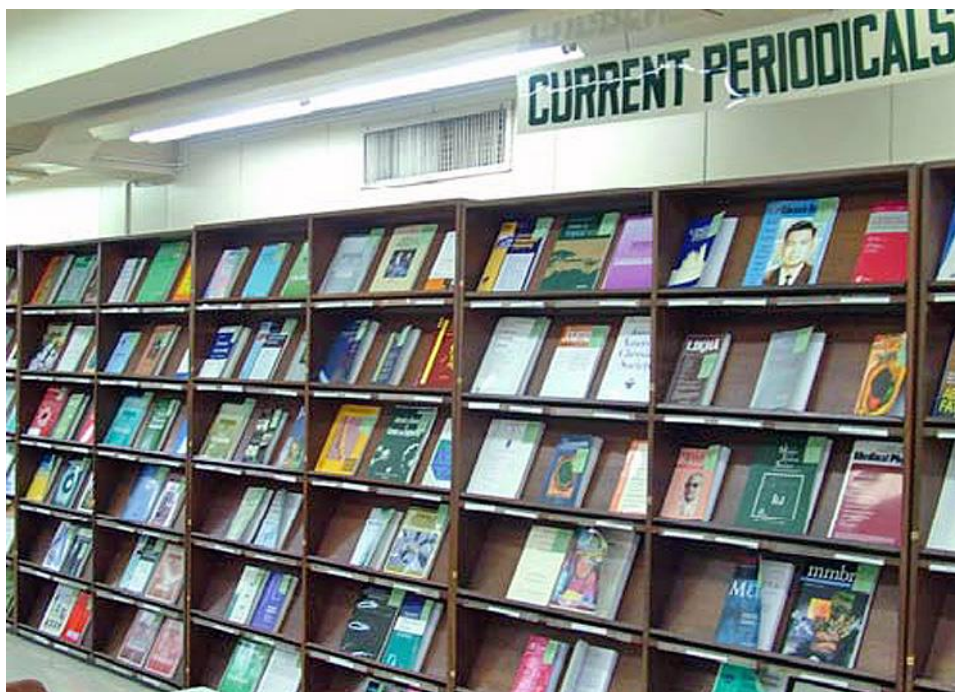




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AGRICULTURE

1. Nicholas J. Sanders and Alan I. Barreca

[**Adaptation to Environmental Change: Agriculture and the Unexpected Incidence of the Acid Rain Program**](#)

American Economic Journal: Economic Policy: Vol. 14, No. 1, February 2022

The Acid Rain Program (ARP) cut sulfur dioxide (SO₂) emissions from power plants in the United States, with considerable benefits. We show this also reduced ambient sulfate level, which lowered agriculture productivity through decreased soil sulfur. Using plant-level SO₂ emissions and an atmospheric transport model, we estimate the relationship between airborne sulfate levels and yields for corn and soybeans. We estimate crop revenue losses for these two crops at around \$1–\$1.5 billion per year, with accompanying decreases in land value. Back-of-the-envelope calculations of the costs to replace lost sulfur suggest producer responses were limited and suboptimal.

2. Tavneet Suri and Christopher Udry

[**Agricultural Technology in Africa**](#)

Journal of Economic Perspectives: Vol. 36, No. 1, Winter 2022

We discuss recent trends in agricultural productivity in Africa and highlight how technological progress in agriculture has stagnated on the continent. We briefly review the literature that tries to explain this stagnation through the lens of particular constraints to technology adoption. Ultimately, none of these constraints alone can explain these trends. New research highlights pervasive heterogeneity in the gross and net returns to agricultural technologies across Africa. We argue that this heterogeneity makes the adoption process more challenging, limits the scope of many innovations, and contributes to the stagnation in technology use. We conclude with directions for policy and what we feel are still important, unanswered research questions.

EDUCATION

3. Singh, Avinash Kumar

[**NEP-2020: Vision and pathways**](#)

Yojana: February 2022

After thirty four years since the launch of the National Policy on Education in 1986, a new National Education Policy- 2020 has been announced and is currently under implementation. The National Education Policy envisions to have an education system that is second to none with equitable access to the highest quality education for all learners regardless of social or economic background. The vision of NEP - 2020 is in sync with goal 4 of the UN Sustainable Development Goal (SDG4), which seeks to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all.

4. Ahuja, Anupam and Chadha, Zoya

[Equitable and inclusive Education](#)

Yojana: February 2022

For any accessible reading material, it is important that the content to be adapted is also inclusive. This means that the material must show diverse characters, and they must be relevant for children from different backgrounds. When developing any teaching learning material, we must think of all children, with variations in their ability, socio-economic backgrounds, interests, strengths, and access as being able to use it and find it relevant. The attention and focus given by NEP on inclusion and equity in education is built on years of efforts and advocacy by state and national initiatives, and several other stakeholders in their respective capacities to build a better schooling system where children with disabilities can learn together with all children in an equitable manner.

FINANCE

5. Aggarwal, Vaibhav and Tiwary, Mrityunjay Kumar

[Impact of State Intervention in Oil Pricing on Stock Market Volatility - Evidence from India](#)

EPW: Vol. 57, Issue No. 6, 05 Feb, 2022

The Indian economy deregulated its oil price regime and moved from state-administered to market-linked pricing. This study examines the impact of deregulation on volatility transmission between international oil prices and Indian stock markets. The findings show that due to continual interventions in the form of taxation changes and price freeze during elections, not only did the short-term

spillover of oil prices on stock markets strengthen, but the long-term spillover also continues to remain, despite oil price deregulation. This implies that after moving to market-determined pricing, there should be no tinkering with the oil-pricing mechanism by policymakers to ensure the desired stability in stock markets.

6. Manish Gupta, Atul Sarma

[**The Role of Finance Commissions in Intergovernmental Fiscal Management**](#)

EPW: Vol. 57, Issue No. 6, 05 Feb, 2022

Fiscal imbalances, both vertical and horizontal, are common to federations and India is no exception. The Indian Constitution provides for instruments—shared taxes and grants-in-aid—to address such imbalances and an institutional mechanism—the finance commissions with specified terms of reference—to negotiate such imbalances. The paper addresses how 14 different FCs have dealt with their constitutionally assigned roles and strengthened the fabric of fiscal federalism in India. It further examines how the role of FCs were enlarged with additional terms in the interest of sound finance. It discusses, as an illustration, how FCs have addressed one of the major fiscal concerns, restoring budgetary balance and maintaining macroeconomic stability in the economy.

HEALTH

7. Sinha, Neeraj and Agrawal, Naman

[**Fighting against COVID-19**](#)

Kurukshetra: February 2022

Neeraj Sinha is Sr. Adviser and Naman Agrawal is Specialist, NITI Aayog

With a vision to establish India as a global hub for start-ups on the world map, Atal Innovation Mission since its inception is working to become a powerhouse of innovation and entrepreneurship. Till today, Atal Innovation Mission has established a total of 68 Atal Incubation Centres. Spread across the length and breadth of the country, these business incubators are supporting start-ups by providing technological facilities and advice, initial growth funds, network and linkages, co-working spaces, lab facilities, mentoring, and advisory support. Many of these solutions have helped people in their fight against the pandemic and are also continuing to do so. These torchbearers are also inspiring other entrepreneurs and young minds across the

country to create new, disruptive and innovative products, services and solutions which can pave for a sustainable future.

8. Prasad, Urvashi and Kapur, Sanyam

[National family health survey-5](#)

Kurukshehra: February 2022

Urvashi Prasad is Director, DMEO, NITI Aayog

Data from NFHS provides a great opportunity to assess the contribution of Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY) as the scheme was implemented between the rounds of NFHS-4 and NFHS-5. The fieldwork for NFHS-4 was completed by December, 2016 providing a baseline to the program and NFHS-5 fieldwork conducted over two phases, was completed in January, 2020 (Phase-1) and April, 2021 (Phase-2). NFHS-5 findings released in November, 2021 highlight the improvement in the use of clean cooking fuel by Indian households. NFHS considers electricity, LPG/ natural gas and biogas as ‘clean cooking fuels’, the use of which increased by 18.3 percent in the 10 years between 2005-06 to 2015-16 and witnessed an accelerated 14.8 percent increase between 2015-16 and 2019-20.

9. K S James, S K Singh, H Lhungdim, Chander Shekhar, L K Dwivedi, S Pedgaonkar, F Arnold

[Population, Health Status, and the Sustainable Development Goals - Emerging Indications from NFHS-5](#)

EPW: Vol. 57, Issue No. 6, 05 Feb, 2022

The fact sheets with key results of the National Family Health Survey-5, conducted in 2019–21, from 36 states/union territories were released recently by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India. In this article, the authors highlight the emerging population and health issues from the NFHS-5 to monitor the country’s progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030 and the key policy issues to strengthen the population and health programmes in the country.

LABOR

10. Christian Dustmann, Attila Lindner, Uta Schönberg, Matthias Umkehrer, Philipp vom Berge

Reallocation Effects of the Minimum Wage

The Quarterly Journal of Economics, Volume 137, Issue 1, February 2022

We investigate the wage, employment, and reallocation effects of the introduction of a nationwide minimum wage in Germany that affected 15% of all employees. Based on identification designs that exploit variation in exposure across individuals and local areas, we find that the minimum wage raised wages but did not lower employment. It also led to the reallocation of low-wage workers from smaller to larger, from lower- to higher-paying, and from less to more productive establishments. This worker upgrading accounts for up to 17% of the wage increase induced by the minimum wage. Moreover, at the regional level, average establishment quality increased in more affected areas in the years following the introduction of the minimum wage.

MONETARY POLICY

11. Javier Bianchi and Jorge Mondragon

Monetary Independence and Rollover Crises

The Quarterly Journal of Economics, Volume 137, Issue 1, February 2022

This article shows that the inability to use monetary policy for macroeconomic stabilization leaves a government more vulnerable to a rollover crisis. We study a sovereign default model with self-fulfilling rollover crises, foreign currency debt, and nominal rigidities. When the government lacks monetary independence, lenders anticipate that the government would face a severe recession in the event of a liquidity crisis and are therefore more prone to run on government bonds. In a quantitative application to the Eurozone debt crisis, we find that the lack of monetary autonomy played a central role in making Spain vulnerable to a rollover crisis. Finally, we argue that a lender of last resort can go a long way toward reducing the costs of giving up monetary independence.

WAGES

12. Barbara Biasi and Heather Sarsons

Flexible Wages, Bargaining, and the Gender Gap

The Quarterly Journal of Economics, Volume 137, Issue 1, February 2022

Does flexible pay increase the gender wage gap? To answer this question, we analyze the wages of public school teachers in Wisconsin, where a 2011 reform allowed school districts to set teachers' pay more flexibly and engage in individual negotiations. Using quasi-exogenous variation in the timing of the introduction of flexible pay, driven by the expiration of preexisting collective-bargaining agreements, we show that flexible pay lowered the salaries of women compared with men with the same credentials. This gap is larger for younger teachers and smaller for teachers working under a female principal or superintendent. Survey evidence suggests that the gap is partly driven by women engaging less frequently in negotiations over pay, especially when the counterpart is a man. The gap is unlikely to be driven by observable gender differences in job mobility or teacher ability, although the threat of moving and a high demand for male teachers could exacerbate it. Our results suggest that pay discretion and wage bargaining are important determinants of the gender wage gap and that institutions, such as unions, might help narrow this gap.